

The Buckeye Treehouse

The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum Volunteer Newsletter

September 2023 Edition



Janet McKew (L) and Deirdre Spearman at Columbus Metropolitan Library's first Plant Exchange

Boxwood Browning: Insights from Chadwick Arboretum's Labyrinth Garden

As we stroll through Chadwick Arboretum's Labyrinth Garden, you might have noticed that the once-vibrant boxwood shrubs encircling the space now stand in various shades of brown. These plants have fallen victim to a series of challenges that have plagued boxwoods in our region.

Odds are, you are seeing this in your landscape, too. To shed light on these issues, we turn to a few recent articles published by OSU Extension's

Joe Boggs and Pam Bennett. Many of you know Pam as our previous Interim Program Director and Cultivar Trials Faculty Advisor, but she wears many hats. One of those is writing a gardening column for the Journal- News.

In her August 2023 article, "[Boxwood woes continue](#)," Pam writes that many people are misdiagnosing their browning boxwoods with boxwood blight. Pam warns, "Remember – you **MUST** identify the problem correctly

before taking any corrective action."

To dig deeper, check out BYGL's July article, "[Re-Visiting Volutella and Brownd Boxwoods](#)." Here, Joe explains that that the widespread damage to boxwoods is believed to be mostly attributed to the "deep-diving temperatures experienced across Ohio during the week of Christmas."

Boxwood Insights

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But, there's a bit more to the story still.

Joe goes on to explain that, once our boxwoods are weakened, like through harsh winter weather, a fungal disease called *Volutella* Blight can take the opportunity to infect the bush. If this is the case, the browning will continue throughout the summer season due to cankers that affect vascular flow to the leaves.

We should always confirm suspected fungal plant infection through “non-biased, university-based diagnostic clinics,” which is why our horticulturist called Francesca Hand, Associate Professor and State Extension Specialist for Ornamentals Pathology. Sadly, she confirmed that our boxwoods have *Volutella*.



The Labyrinth Garden's Next Phase

In our case, spraying and pruning could halt the infection if proper attention was given to disinfecting pruners in-between cuts and fallen leaves were removed. In the end, it was felt that the best course of action would be to remove the plants altogether.

So, what's next for the labyrinth garden “room,” after the boxwoods are removed?

With all our gardens, losing plants presents the opportunity to try something new. OSU's Landscape Architect, Aaron Rumbaugh, is working on some design options with his students.

As Chadwick Volunteers, we always welcome your input. If you find yourself in the Labyrinth soon, let us know if you have any thoughts on this new planting opportunity.



Volunteer Handbook

No matter how long you've been a volunteer here, please take some time to flip through the Volunteer handbook. You can click on the image to open it or find it on our [Current Volunteer webpage](#).

As we align with OSU Extension's Master Gardener program, there are new policies and practices in place for Chadwick Volunteers. Namely:

- Complete “Recertification Documents” annually on Hands on Connect
- Understand new policies on using power equipment & golf carts.

Volunteer Orientation Committee



Learning Together in the Lane Ave. Gardens

Here at the arboretum, we believe all volunteers should feel warmly invited, have fun, and get excited about the work we do together! A committee of volunteers who are helping to onboard new volunteers would help create the right environment we need to bring in and retain new people.

Committee members will help with volunteer orientation tasks, such as:

- Meeting volunteers for their first visit to the arboretum
- Working alongside them for the first few times they volunteer and introducing them to others

If this sounds like something you are interested in doing in spring 2024, please reach out to Julia Wilson at Wilson.4615@osu.edu



Volunteer Appreciation Night

Thursday, September 28, 2023

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Lane Ave. Gardens, just beyond the trellis entrance

Please join us for an evening celebrating you and all the work we have done together at Chadwick Arboretum this year. Whether you contributed 2 hours or 200, we hope you will join us!

After dinner and music, we will have a short program of recognitions around 7:00 p.m. (Come dressed for the weather!)

Let us know you are coming by 9/11: [RSVP Here](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

In the Garden



Lantana Shamrock Red. Photo by Kathy Watson

Volunteer Sessions

- **Tuesdays, 9 – 11 AM:** Lane Ave. Gardens
CONTACT Joe Stewart: gardenjoestew@gmail.com
- **Tuesdays, 9 – 11 AM:** Cultivar Trials
CONTACT Kathy Krantz: candkkrantz@sbcglobal.net
- **1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 9 – 11 AM:** Various locations
CONTACT Hope Weber: jhopeweber@gmail.com
- **Thursdays, 9-11 AM:** Learning Gardens
CONTACT Chris Tilton: ctilton@columbus.rr.com
- **Fridays, 9 – 11 AM:** Arboretum North
CONTACT Lori Kingston: lk518@att.net

Adopt – a – Bed Across the Arboretum

- With a little training, you can adopt an area of the arboretum to maintain on your schedule. Please reach out to Pam Poeth: poeth.3@osu.edu

****All Volunteer sessions are weather dependent: rain/snow cancels, as well as temperatures under 40 degrees. ****

Host a Chadwick Arboretum table at WestFest

**Saturday, September 30,
2023 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00
p.m.**

Shift 1: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Shift 2: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

WestFest is a family-friendly, interactive event that is meant to engage multi-generational audiences in hands-on activities focused on STEM and sustainability.

Chadwick Arboretum will host a table with a kid-appropriate propagation activity, and we need your help to make this event a success!

RSVP to Julia Wilson at
Wilson.4615@osu.edu.

**We are especially looking for additional help during this shift.*



Tour Guide Corner

With students back in session, the class tour and outreach opportunity requests are coming in fast!
Can you help?



Back 2 School Bash with volunteers Karen Middendorf (L) and Nancy Lahmers

Dr. Barker's Ecology of Managed Plant Systems Lab

Lead a 90-minute tour of the Learning Gardens & Cultivar Trials for about 10-25 students (class sizes vary). Introduce students to Chadwick Arboretum, ornamental plants, how to maintain gardens, and weeds. Students are fulfilling a General Education requirement with this class, so many will have little to no horticulture background. Students come with a worksheet which the TA will help them fill out, but you can tailor your tour to help them answer those questions.

Tour 1: Tuesday, September 12, 9:10 – 11:00 a.m.

Tour 2: Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Tour 3: Thursday, September 14, 3:55 -5:45 p.m.

Tour 4: Thursday, September 14, 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

*Note that the class is scheduled for 1 hour 50 minutes, but that allows for 10 minutes for the students to find the steps to Howlett Hall and then 10 minutes after the tour to complete their worksheet. (You only need to lead the tour for 90 minutes.)

**Tour opportunities are added continuously to the following sign-up form.
View more info & sign up here : go.osu.edu/chadwickoutreach**

Volunteer Opportunity:

Fall Foliage Open House
Sunday, October 15, 2023



Wry Grass Band Playing at the '22 Fall Foliage Open House

Fall Foliage Open House at Arboretum North is a family-friendly event geared towards the Columbus community on Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

This "hidden gem" of Chadwick Arboretum will be highlighted through tours, a food truck, free apple cider, and fun activities. We are looking for about 15 volunteers to help at this event greeting visitors, passing out parking passes, leading tours, and helping at one of our education-focused tables.

Volunteers can RSVP their interest, and the task they are most interested in helping with, to Julia Wilson at wilson.4615@osu.edu or Lori Kingston at lk518@att.net. Read more info on our website here: go.osu.edu/ArboretumNorth



ArboBlitz 2023

Friday, October 27, 2023 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Every fall, Chadwick Arboretum teams up with the rest of campus to plant 20 trees in 3 hours. This year, ArboBlitz is working with the City of Columbus to give back trees to the community around the **Wexner Medical Center East Hospital.**

You do not need to know how to plant trees to participate - we will teach you! Bring your family and friends, and let's make this the best Arboblitz of them all.

We will be posting exact planting locations soon. [RSVP Here](#) and be the first to hear updates.